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Department of Pesticide Regulation



Gray Davis
Governor
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Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes March 21, 2003

Committee Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Claudia Moore, Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB)
Rebecca Sisco, University of California-Davis, IR-4 Program
Brian Finlayson, Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
Barbara Todd, Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Lynn Baker, Air Resources Board (ARB)
Tobi Jones, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)
Rupali Das, Department of Health Services (DHS)
Syed Ali, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
Kathleen Thuner, San Diego County Department of Agriculture
Barry Wilson, Department of Environmental Toxicology, University of California Davis (UCD)
Laurie Amaro, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region 9 (U.S. EPA)

Visitors in Attendance:

Walt Shannon, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
John Pearson, Compliance Services International
Diane Beaulaurier, Central Valley Regional Board
Raymond Chavira, U.S. EPA Region 9
Joe Karkoski, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mark Parsons, Natural Resource Conservation Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Jessie Smith, SWRCB
Sejal Choksi, Waterkeepers, San Francisco Baykeeper
Regina Sarracino, DPR
Ann Prichard, DPR
Fred Bundock, DPR
Jeanne Martin, DPR
Eileen Mahoney, DPR
John Sanders, DPR
Kathy Brunetti, DPR
Bob Elliott, DPR

1. Introductions and Committee Business – Tobi Jones, Chairperson

- a. About 27 people attended the meeting.
- b. One correction was made to the minutes of January 17, 2003. In the minutes, a 117 square mile quarantine was listed for the Mexican Fruit Fly, and it was actually a 130 square mile quarantine.

FLEX YOUR POWER! For simple ways to reduce energy demand and costs, see <www.cdpr.ca.gov>.

2. Environmental Quality incentives Program Under the 2003 Farm Bill - Mark Parsons, Natural Resource Conservation Services, USDA

Mark Parsons discussed the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as reauthorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. Support for resource conservation under this Farm Bill is greater than previously seen. This competitive grants program is administered through state and local agencies of USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. Mark discussed how priorities are established, how the grants process works, and provided material on the program. The level of funding for California has not yet been announced. Addressing mitigation for impaired water bodies listed under the Clean Water Act is one area of interest.

3. Diazinon Activities:

* Initiation of DPR Reevaluation-Ann Prichard DPR

February 2003 - DPR placed all agricultural use pesticides containing diazinon into reevaluation. These products are intended for use in orchards as dormant sprays. Eleven registrants and 28 pesticide products are identified. Reevaluation initiated based on monitoring studies conducted between 1991 and 2001. Studies show the presence of diazinon in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys at levels that exceed water quality criteria established for the protection of aquatic life by the Department of Fish and Game. Aquatic toxicity associated with the presence of diazinon has also been observed.

Diazinon registrants must:

- (1) Identify the processes by which diazinon dormant spray products are contributing to detections of diazinon in surface water(at levels that exceed DFG's water quality criteria).
- (2) Identify mitigation strategies that will reduce or eliminate diazinon residues in surface water. The mitigation measures must be feasible and supported by scientific studies.

* Overview of Surface Water Data- John Sanders

The Central Valley Regional Board brought the issue of dormant sprays causing toxicity in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers to DPR in the late 1980s. DPR and other organizations conducted several studies in the 1990s to determine the scope and source of the problem. DPR urged users and registrants to implement voluntary actions to reduce or prevent the off-site movement of dormant sprays during the 1990s. During the mid-90s,

as the result of a lawsuit, DPR committed to monitor both rivers for five years and then evaluate the data to see if additional action was necessary. DPR evaluated monitoring data from 22 studies conducted from 1991-2001, and determined that diazinon used as a dormant spray is continuing to be present in concentrations that can cause toxicity in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Diazinon concentrations in the tributaries to these rivers are more often at levels that can cause toxicity than in the two rivers. Therefore, DPR put diazinon products used as dormant sprays into reevaluation and asked the registrants for data to help solve the water quality issue.

* Development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-Joe Karkoski, CVRWQCB

- (1) The Central Valley Regional Board is developing TMDLs and establishing water quality objectives for diazinon in the Sacramento, Feather, and San Joaquin Rivers, the Delta, and Sacramento area urban creeks.
- (2) The Sacramento and Feather Rivers TMDLs and objectives will be part of an amendment to the Regional Board's Basin Plan. The Basin Plan will address implementation issues. A policy is proposed to ensure alternatives to diazinon will not impact ground or surface water. Monitoring goals are proposed to guide evaluation of the implementation program.
- (3) The Basin Plan Amendments for the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, as well as the San Joaquin River, will go before the Regional Board this summer for a decision.

4. PREC Member's Forum-Laurie Amaro, U.S. EPA, Region 9

Laurie Amaro gave a presentation on U.S. EPA's Region 9 Pesticide Office role in pesticides. Laurie discussed the geographical area covered by Region 9, and the major environmental programs. Laurie gave background on the two U.S. EPA headquarters offices with pesticides responsibilities, namely the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA). OPP is responsible for registering and reregistering pesticides, assessing health and environmental effects, and establishing tolerances. OECA sets enforcement policies for all U.S. EPA programs, sets priorities and tracks progress, performs case reviews, and conducts enforcement training.

The Region 9 Pesticides Office works with states to implement national priorities for OPP and OECA. It serves as the intermediary between states and OPP. It has responsibilities for inspections of pesticide-producing establishments, approving importation of pesticides, and FIFRA enforcement oversight.

5. Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Location – Tobi Jones, DPR

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 16, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., in the Sierra Hearing Room located on the second floor of the Cal/EPA building.

6. Closing Comments – Tobi Jones, DPR

The meeting was adjourned.